



Pedro Nava

Assembly Member

REPRESENTING ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 35



www.asm.ca.gov/nava

MARCH 2009

Assemblymember Nava Honors Labor Leader Marilyn Valenzuela as the Woman of the Year

Sacramento – Assemblymember Nava was proud to honor Marilyn Valenzuela, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of Tri-Counties Central Labor Council as the 35th Assembly District Woman of the Year in a ceremony on the Assembly Floor in Sacramento on March 16, 2008. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis, newly appointed by President Obama, gave the keynote address.



Mrs. Valenzuela worked at Food Fair Market as one of the first "box girls" and her career in the grocery industry spanned 30 years. She held positions in almost every department.

Mrs. Valenzuela has led the labor movement on the Central Coast for 19 years strengthening and securing its future. In 1992 Marilyn was unanimously elected to the position of Executive Secretary-Treasurer and has been reelected every two years since then. She and her fellow union activists have achieved a positive statewide reputation for their political activism under her leadership and guidance including winning the battle to raise minimum wage.

Speaker Karen Bass, Woman of the Year Marilyn Valenzuela, Assemblymember Nava and Assemblymember Mike Villines in the Assembly chambers.

"Marilyn Valenzuela represents courage, strength and compassion," Nava said. "Her lifetime commitment to the families in the community is to be commended. She has touched many lives through her work in the labor movement.

She's made a difference. Californians have benefited from her work and I am deeply honored to recognize her."

Assemblymember Nava and the Assembly Coastal Caucus Introduce Legislation to Fight Ocean Pollution

Assemblymember Nava joined with state wide environmental groups, Lt. Governor Garamendi, and members of the Assembly Coastal Caucus to announce the introduction of legislation to clean up our oceans.

Non-biodegradable garbage in the oceans is increasing and accumulating at an alarming rate and 80% of the debris comes from land-based sources. Plastic bags, disposable packaging, and Styrofoam take-out food containers are littered in the streets and flow to the ocean in urban runoff. In the North Pacific Gyre, for example, studies show high concentrations of plastics in an area four times the size of California.

Marine debris has severe ecological and economic impacts. Marine Debris affects 267 species across the globe. Sea turtles, seabirds and various marine mammals suffer fatalities as a result of ingestion, starvation, suffocation, infection, drowning, and entanglement. Marine debris' economic impacts are in the tens of millions of dollars. Caltrans spends \$55 million to pick-up litter that could otherwise wash to the ocean; the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works spends \$18 million annually on litter removal, catch basing cleaning, and litter prevention. According to the California Coastal Commission, 90% of floating ocean debris, and 60-80% of marine debris overall, is comprised of plastics. Public agencies in California spend more than \$375 million annually on litter cleanup.

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Assemblymember Nava is working on bills that will help reduce the amount of garbage flowing to the ocean, encourage more sustainable behavior, and reduce the volume of waste produced by Californians.

"Ocean litter is not just blight on our beaches," said Assemblymember Nava, "It is detrimental to ocean ecosystems and a huge burden on state and local coastal governments. These bills will go a long way in addressing this problem."

Assemblymembers Jerry Hill and Pedro Nava introduced **AB 1358** to encourage the use of safe and sustainable take-out food packaging. This bill will ban the use of single use Styrofoam packaging for take out food. Styrofoam is a suspected carcinogen and neurotoxin that was recently limited by the Food and Drug Administration in bottled drinking water. Studies have indicated that styrene residues are present in 100% of all human fat tissue in the United States. In addition to the human health impacts, plastic and Styrofoam waste is a significant problem in California, especially in coastal communities.



Asm. Nava, Lt. Gov. Garamendi, and members of the Assembly Coastal Caucus announce new ocean protection legislation.

Nava is co-authoring AB 68, a single use bag fee, with Assemblymember Brownley. The bill charges consumers a statewide fee on all single-use bags at supermarkets, pharmacies and convenience stores beginning in 2010. The revenue collected will be distributed to local governments for litter clean up and prevention. Low-income customers participating in WIC or a food stamp program will be exempt from paying the fee.

Assemblymember Nava is co-authoring AB 283, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), with Assemblymember Chesbro. Our landfills are overflowing, and our rivers and oceans are choked with trash. EPR moves part of the burden onto producers of waste, and gives them incentives to reduce their packaging and put sustainable programs in place. EPR has the ability to reduce waste at the source, before it gets into our ocean.

Making a Difference: Oxnard Police Activities League

The Oxnard Police Activities League (PAL) is an after-school crime prevention program, which provides outreach to local youth ages 7 to 18, to build positive relationships between youth, police officers and the community. Oxnard PAL offers recreation, enrichment, education and community service opportunities – all without cost to participants.

Oxnard PAL's co-director, Terrel Harrison, is board president for the state organization, California PAL. This organization supports PAL program's throughout the state organizing special events, offering grants and providing support. Oxnard PAL recently celebrated their 15th Anniversary.

Some programs offered at Oxnard PAL, include: video productions, boxing, youth leadership and dance. Oxnard PAL also hosts the 805 Cruizin' Car Show & Concert and the National PAL Boxing Championships. For a more complete list of programs and events, log on to the PAL website at www.oxnardpal.org or to make a donation, volunteer or receive more information, contact the PAL office at (805) 385-8230.



Oxnard PAL visits the Capitol. Pictured: (back row) Terrel Harrison, Edward Castruira, E.J. Jackson, and Sr. Officer Ken Klopman. (front row) Tiffany Alfaro, Janice Cabildo, and Vanessa Padilla.

FOOD Share and Foodbank Reach Out to Those Who Are Hungry



The 35th Assembly District is home to two outstanding organizations that help feed those most in need in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. FOOD Share and the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County distribute millions of pounds of food each year.

Founded more than 30 years ago, FOOD Share is a Ventura County's regional food bank distributing millions of pounds of food each year to more than 40,000 people throughout Ventura County. FOOD Share collects and distributes food via 155 partner agencies, including churches and food pantries, throughout the County from its 36,000 square foot warehouse located at 4156 Southbank Road in Oxnard.

"As times get more difficult, we have seen more and more families in need. FOOD Share helps so many people in the community, but we cannot continue to help without the support and donations of the public," said Bonnie Weigel, CEO of FOOD Share. "We have witnessed communities coming together to help with this most basic need and we are so appreciative of those who sponsor FOOD Share year-round."

FOOD Share's holiday food drive, themed "Tackling Hunger," brought in more than 200,000 lbs of food, enough to feed people through March. A new campaign, "March To End Hunger," kicked off in March to once again fill the shelves and help feed those in need, most of whom are children.

To find out more information about FOOD Share, to make a donation, or to learn how you can help, call 805-983-7100 or visit their web site, www.foodshare.com.

The Foodbank of Santa Barbara County distributed nearly eight million pounds of food from two warehouse locations in Santa Barbara and Santa Maria in 2008. The Foodbank distributes food to over 220 social service programs and agencies, churches, and community groups from Carpinteria to Santa Maria. Last year, over 125,000 people in Santa Barbara County were served by Foodbank member agencies.

"I am honored to have exceptional organizations like FOOD Share and the Foodbank of SB County in my district," said Assemblymember Nava. "Caring for our vulnerable populations and providing resources for working families is a service that deserves much praise, and I thank them for their work."



To find out about the programs and services of the Foodbank of SB County, visit www.foodbanksbc.org or call (805) 967-5741.

Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County Sign Returned to Rightful Place

Once again the sign commemorating the Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County (VVVC) at Oxnard Blvd. and Wagon Wheel Rd. in Oxnard is upright for all to see. The VVVC initiated the legislative request to have a sign back in 2001 seeing an Assembly Concurrent Resolution all the way through the legislative process. The group then did community outreach, fundraising for the full amount of the sign put up by Caltrans.

Last month John Cabrera from the VVVC called Assemblymember Nava's office because the sign had fallen down. The next morning the sign was back up. "I am pleased we were able to help continue to honor the Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County for their service to our country with the sign on Oxnard Blvd serves as a reminder to all of their sacrifice," said Nava.

VVVC President Dave Betti said, "The Vietnam Veterans Memorial sign is more than just a sign; this great country of ours has many memorials dedicated to our men and women in the military who deserve so much more. To have a sign, a plaque, a shrine, or a headstone in honor of, is one thing—The Vietnam Veterans Memorial sign is more than that, it is a monument to all of those who have served, and who have given their lives, but most importantly, who still suffer from this terrible conflict...We were called upon, we answered the call, lives were lost, families torn apart, some are still missing. We never gave up, nor will we ever give up like the world did on us. This memorial belongs to us, you will remember all of us when we are gone."

Please visit <http://www.vvvc.org/> to learn more about the Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County.



Assemblymember Nava with members of the Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County at the location of the righted sign.

Assemblymember Nava Welcomes Michael Miiller as Chief of Staff

Michael Miiller will be leaving the State Senate and bringing his considerable talent and experience to assist Assemblymember Pedro Nava as his Chief of Staff. Jim DeBoo, Mr. Nava's former Chief of Staff has accepted a position as the Chief Legislative Representative for the City of Los Angeles.

A few of Mr. Miiller's accomplishments include staffing legislation to: provide immediate assistance to homeowners facing foreclosure in the housing crisis; extending the statute of limitations for civil cases alleging sexual child abuse; challenge agricultural marketing orders that effect food quality and price; promote historic child support legislation that became the model for national child support reforms; provide health care protection to LGBT families and codifying LGBT Californians as a cognizable group.

Miiller has served in a variety of policy committee and leadership positions providing expertise on general governmental oversight, consumer protection, banking, finance, insurance, business and professions, economic development, elections, family law, and LGBT issues. He has served as a Consultant to Senate President pro Tempore Don Perata. He is set to commence his new duties on April 2, 2009.

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